

**Harm reduction programs
are accessible to anyone,
regardless of gender.**



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you agree or disagree?
- What assumptions are implied in this statement?
- What can you do in your work to support women who use drugs's access to harm reduction programs?

Thinking Points

- Through WHAI's consultations with women who use drugs across Ontario, women reported facing various barriers to harm reduction programs, including stigma and discrimination from partners, friends, family, and service providers.
- Black, Brown, Indigenous, and Trans women particularly reported experiencing stigma, along with mothers and sex workers.
- Women also shared that past and present experiences of violence impacted their feelings of safety and likelihood to use harm reduction programs.
- Lack of child care options, and judgments about parenting and drug use also play a significant role in creating barriers for women in terms of access to harm reduction programs.
- Other factors that impact women's access to harm reduction programs included the time of day services are available and transportation.



ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What barriers exist for women who use drugs in your community?
- How could you learn more about the barriers women, including Black, Brown, Indigenous, and Trans women, who use drugs in your community might face?
- What other populations of women may be facing barriers locally?
- What changes are low-cost (or free) and could help to reduce these barriers?